

Michael R. Pence Governor

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#### PENDLETON CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

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#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

### Pendleton Correctional Facility Announces New P.U.P.S. Program

**Pendleton, Indiana (July 22, 2015)** - For most of us prison doesn't represent freedom but for Ike, a 4 year old Golden Retriever and Chow mix, it is an escape from the stressful environment of shelter life.

Formerly known as 'Wallaby', Ike was adopted from the Animal Protection League and now has a new purpose in life. As the first dog in the Pendleton Correctional Facility's P.U.P.S. program (Patriots Utilizing Puppies for Support), he is paired with an American Legion Post 608 Son's of Legion member who will train Ike in basic commands before learning new cues. The ultimate goal is for him to become a companion dog to a local veteran who in this case, suffers from PTSD. The benefits are immeasurable as the veteran experiences unconditional love and the canine gets a new lease on life.

"It is a much deeper gratification to utilize potential companions from a shelter as it will ultimately better the dog's life. I hope this is an opportunity for our American Legion to help improve the quality of life for a veteran as well as long lasting positive results for everyone involved," stated William "Dion" Baxter, PCF American Legion Post Commander.

Ike, formerly known as Wallaby



### Ike and his trainer



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